Mother of Senzie Pat Seizuki

Project I.D. No. 143

NAME: Suzuki, Aki DATE OF BIRTH: 1896 PLACE OF BIRTH: Aichi-ken
Age: 79 Sex: F Marital Status: W Education: High school

PRE-WAR:
Date of arrival in U.S.: 1921 Age: 25 M.S. M Port of entry: San Fran.
Occupation/s: 1. Farmer's wife 2. 3.
Place of residence: 1. Cressey 2. 3.
Religious affiliation: Christian church
Community organizations/activities:

EVACUATION:
Name of assembly center: Merced
Name of relocation center: Amache
Dispensation of property: Left with a Mexican Names of bank/s:
Jobs held in camp: 1. Janitor (husband) 2.
Jobs held outside of camp:
Left camp to go to: Colorado

POST-WAR:
Date returned to West Coast: 1946
Address/es: 1. Livingston 2. Cressey
3.
Religious affiliation: Christian church
Activities: 1. 2. 3.
If deceased, date, place and age at time of death: Husband died in 1971

Name of interviewer: Takarabe Date: 7/30/75 Place: Livingston, Ca.
Translator: Mabel Hall

T: To start with, please tell me your mame.

S. It is Aki Suzuki.

Q: Where were you born?

A: Toyohashi City in Aichi Prefecture.

Q: When were you born?

A: I was born in 29th year of Meiji. (1896)

Q: How old are you now?

A: I will be 79 years old soon. Do I look it? I aged since I became ill last New Years. Until then I was very healthy. I worked very hard all my life. When I am home I don't like to sit still. I read books or do something with my hands. I don't like to waste time, so I don't even take a nap. It has become a habit.

Q: What kind of a family are you from? What was your father's occupation?

A: In those days Japanese used to study on low desk. My father was the first one to build high desks and chairs.in Toyohashi City. He made them following the advice of an Englishman, and my house was very prosperous when I was born.

Q: How many brothers and sisters do you have?

A: I have 8 brothers and sisters.

Q: Where were you situated among your brothers and sisters?

A: I was the 5th one from the top. There were 3 girls, and I was the middle one.

Q: What kind of a woman was your mother?

A: She came from a neighboring village.

Q: Was she a gentle woman?

A: She was a very gentle and righteous woman. She did not contribute to the world, but she was an indespensable person for me. So was my father.

Q: Whom were you scolded by?

A: She seldom scolded us. When the boys were naughty she said she was going to hit them with a stick. But she was glad when the boys ran away and she did not have to hit them. She was that kind of a person. I don't remember being scolded by my mother. She was a gentle person, so we didn't think she was too strict.

Q: What kind of thing did you learn from your parents?

A: When the girls were young we were taught to dance and play samisen before we started going to school so that we become girlish. As we were children we did not like it. Our teacher was very stict, and if we forgot what we learned the day before she used to hit us with a long smoking pipe. When I went home crying, my mother made me put on a clean pair of tabi (Japanese socks) and took me back to the teacher and made me apologize her.

Q: What was she a teacher of?

A: She was a dance teacher. Since I was little, my parents took me all the way to Nagoya if there were good shows, but they didn't take me unless they were good. After I started going to highschool I quit dancing, but I still remember what I learned.

Q: Did your parents tell you what to do and what you shouln't do?

A: In Japan we were taught manners strictly as we were girls.

Q: Is there anything you learned from your parents that you still remember?

A: In Japan boys can go anywhere, but girls cannot go anywhere once they are married. My father felt sorry for the girls, and when our vacation started he took us first to Ise shrine and then to Kyoto and other places. I thought my father liked to go on a trip with an excuse that he was taking the girls on trips, but now I understand him. He was an indespensable person too for me.

Q: Didn't you want to go on trips then?

A: I liked to go on trips, but I didn't understand why father took girls on trips. Now I am thankful for what he did for us.

Q: How much education did you have?

A: I went as far as girls' high school. In those days, about 60 years ago, there were girls' highschools only in Nagoya, Okazaki and Toyohashi. Out of about 1,000 girls who went to grammar school with me, only a few wnet to girls' highschool.

Q: Your parents were quite sensible people weren't they?

A: Yes, they were. They thought the girls need education, too. There were several sewing schools in Toyohashi, and most girls attended them, but very few girls attended highschools.

Q: What kind of thing do you recall about your grammar achool period?

A: I was good to my friends and I still associate with my friends from grammar school and highschool. When I went back to Japan everybody got together for me 3 times, and I was very happy. My friends are waiting for me to go back to Japan. I was thinking about going back to Japan after I recovered from illness, but there was a good opportunity to go to Holy land with a group so I went there. Last year I went to Mexico, and my daughter went with me. They do not let this 80-year-old woman go to Japan by myself. As the young people are busy they give excuses that in Japan rainy season is unpleasant, summer is hot and they are busy in September so they cannot go. I go to San Francisco and Los Angeles by myself, si I can go to Japan alone. I am thinking about going to Japan in September.

Q: What kind of subject did you like when you were in grammar school?

A: They were about the same in grammar school, but after I went to highschool I started to like and dislike some subjects.

Q: What kind of subject did you like?

A: I disliked English and geometry most. As I had to memorize the theorems I hated geometry. I used to get help from my brother who remembered all the theorems he learned a few years ago. When I asked my elder sister, she told me that she had forgotten them, but when I asked my older brother he taught me everything. He taught me English in 5 minutes what would have taken me a day to study. I did not like English. Just like learning Japanese here, we did not use English even though we learned it. I studied English for 4 years, but I could not speak. When I went to Europe with my daughter not too long ago, she wanted to go to Germany. I had to attend the wedding of my grandson in Kalamazoo so I came home alone. Every time we entered a different country I had to fill in some forms, but I managed to do it alone. The station in London was very big.

Q: What kind of fun did you have when you were in school?

A: Playing with my friends was most fun I had. As I was healthy I was in charge of athletic equipments. I went ahead of others and put up the nets. We had tennis matches, dividing the class into red and white teams, and inviting teachers. We had a good time.

Q: What kind of troubles or sad experience did you have?

A: I don't remember haveing any sad experience as I was brought up with tender loving care. Everyday was happy. Most girls went to sewing classes after graduating from grammar schools, so they could sew kimonos by the age we graduated from high-school. We learned sewing at highschool, but we could not sew well. Then people said that the highschool graduates couldn't sew well. I think I had advanced ideas in those days, for I went to protest the principal. I asked him how we should spend our time until we got married. We were criticized that the highschool graduates could not sew well or write good with brushes. The principal gave it a thought, and established a preparatory course so that the girls could learn flower arrangements and tea ceremony, and study modern poetry until they were married. I think I was a bit progressive.

Q: Are you 79 years old now?

A: I am 78 years old now. I will be 79 by September. I will be 80 years old in a year. In Japan 80 is a rare age.

Q: Were there girls' highschools in those days?

A: I was the 10th graduate, so it was built 10 years before then. There was a grammar school in front of our house. Behind it was Yoshida Castle. After the castle was torn down, an Army barracks were built there, so we were brought up with the sound of bugles.

Q: What kind of troubles did you have when you were young?

A: The only trouble I had was not being able to understand the subjects. In sewing we learned to sew from baby clothes to hakama (pleated skirt). We did not understand the teachers' instruction on how to make pleats, so I had my sister do it for me. Then everybody wanted me to have theirs made. We had only happy memories.

Q: How many years was the grammar school?

A: Until my time it was 4 years, and 2 years in higher grammar school. After that it became 6 years.

Q: How many years was the highschool?

A: It was 4 years.

Q: Was the preparatory course after the highschool?

A: It was established for girls until they were married.

Q: Your father was quite well-to-to, wasn't he?

A: Our family was very prosperous when I was brought up, so I grew up happily.

Q: Do you remember any war in Japan?

A: I was in a lower grade in grammar school so I remember vaguely. There was a celebration in town and I had to dance on a float.

Once a year we had a presentation of the result of the study. It was very colorful. Many hair-dressers, make-up people and costume people came from Nagoya. The hall was bustling with people congratulating and people bringing food. I still remember those things.

Q: What other events were there in your town?

A: There was Gion Festival in our town, and fireworks were displayed for 3 straight days and nights spending a lot of money. The fireworks were gorgeous at night. In those days we set the fireworks on the fence of a grammar school in front of our house, and fired it when a crowd of people passed by. Young men who worked in our house made fireworks in bamboo sticks and gave them to people we knew or passers by. We invited people related to us or worked for us before, so the house was topsy-turvy with people. We served them food and gave presents to little boys. I still remember the liveliness of Gion Festival.

Q: What month was it held?

A: It was from July 10 through 13th. Many people carried a portable shrine and set it down in front of the shrine. Then they set it on fire and the perishioners ran around it. I think it was to test the young men's courage as it was dangerous. Nowadays the fireworks have become smaller. Of course setting the fireworks in town is prohibited. Every year someone is hurt or burned by fireworks but fortunately none of our young men was hurt.

Q: On what kind of circumstance did you come to America?

A: My husband was a friend of my sister, but I didn't know him as I never met him. When I graduated from highschool the principal told me that my sister's friend was going to America, and is looking for a bride. When I met and talked with him, he told me that he had no intention of settling down in America, but was going to come back to Japan in about five years. I thought I would go with him just to see America, so I came to America with him without giving much thoughts.

When I came here the land had been already bought.

Q: Was it in Livingston?

A: As Livingston became prosperous, people bought land in nearby Cressy. Our place was special. My father-in-law used to work for the Nichi-Bei News. As the Nichi-Bei News was in financial difficulty it could not pay the employees' salary and they were accumulated. Then Mr. Abiko bought land and started the business. My father-in-law who knew nothing about farming bought land on the map. There was a railroad running nearby. The 28 acres of land was divided in 4 pieces, and there was a ditch in between.

When we came here, my husband who knew a little about farming said that it was hard to cultivate the land as it was divided into 4 pieces and each piece was on a slope. The soil was very poor and was not good enough to grow anything. We thought about quitting, but kept on farming until father-in-law spent all his

saving. We had to build a house, a barn, dig a well and furnish the house. We were told that we could make the ends meet in 3 years, but we couldn't do it after 4 or 5 years. After the 6th or the 7th year we went bankrupt, and father and son became penniless. Until then I had never farmed. My father-in-law wanted to move to town. He was married in Japan and had three children then, so he could not feed 5 people working by himself. I insisted that I would not leave here until we returned 20 acres to father. Since then I worked hard all my life.

In America if you work hard you get rewarded even if the land is bad. If we work hard we can pay back the mortgage for 100 acres in 20 years. During the World War I, some people in Livingston bought big pieces of land as they made money. By the time they planted crops the inflation came and they could not get the money, so they went bankrupt, and moved away. We saw such examples, so we worked hard and paid off the mortgage for 100 acres before we went to camp. My neighbor and other Isseis around here still keep 20 acres they bought when they came here. Niseis are the ones who have expanded. Niseis who do not have parents venture in big buisness because even if they fail they have nothing to lose. Some Niseis work diligently and are expanding.

Some Isseis are still working on the original 20 acres, but I felt sorry for the children. I wanted my children to grow up normally, so I worked hard to lay a foundation for them. I did not have time to teach them small things, but I bought a piano and sent the children to Modesto to take piano and violin lessons. I thought I should give the children what my parents gave me. I don't think there is anybody like that around here. Also, when we went to camp, three of our children were in college. It costs much money to send children to colleges so we sold 20 acres of land to send them to colleges. I have not heard of anyone around here who sold their land to send their children to college.

Q: How many children do you have?

A: I have four. One is at home succeeding my husband's work. Another one is in Chicago. Recently he came from Chicago to take care of me during the summar vacation. The next one is in Kalamazoo. He was a pastor in Detroit for six years. Then he became a chaplin of a college in Kalamazoo.

Q: Is he your son?

A: He is my second daughter's husband. He is going to take a leave and coming to San Francisco to take care of his mother for a year.

Q: How many sons do you have?

A: I have one who has succeeded my husband. The other younger one is Pat Suzuki who is a singer in New York.

T: She used to appear on a television show as Mrs. Livingston.

S: I didn't know that. She has a son who goes to a special school. During the vacation six children and two teachers went on a trip. We picked him up from Lake Tahoe and brought him here. He spent two days with us while his friends stayed in San Francisco.

Q: Going back to your younger days, how did you get to know Mr. Suzuki?

A: As I told you before, he was a classmate of my sister. The principal's wife was my classmate, so she asked me if I wanted to go to America. In those days there was a rumor that Japan might go to war with America. I remember him saying, "If you go to America I might attack you. Will that be all right?"

Q: Did you still decide to get married?

A: Yes, I wanted to come and see America if I could come back after five years.

Q: Was he back in Japan then?

A: Yes, he was.

Q: Did you see each other after he came back?

A: We got married.

Q: How did you feel when you saw Mr. Suzuki for the first time? Did you think he was a fine person?

A: I didn't think so. When we graduate from highschool, girls have all kinds of ideals. I didn't think he was a bad man as he was Fukuchan's brother. He came to our house several times, and my mother thought he was a fine man. But she did not want me to go far away where I could not come and see her when she became ill. When I went to ask the opinion of my sister who was in Osaka, she said, "You will have a hard time in America." My brother encouraged me to marry a salaried man, but I told him that I wanted to go to America. I think I came to America on my own wish.

Q: Did you sail from Kobe?

A: From Yokohama.

Q: Do you remember about your life on board the ship?

A: We were on one ship after the picture brides' ship, so the crew members told us funny stories about the picture brides, and we listened to them laughing. Anyway it was a long voyage.

Q: What year was it?

A: It was in December of 1921.

Q: What kind of stories did the members of the crew tell you?

A: The real person was different from the pictures. They told us many funny stories but I forgot them.

Q: Is there anything else you recall about the voyage?

A: It was a long voyage, so variety shows were held on board the ship. I remember some people acted disgusing as different characters.

Q: Did you get seasick?

A: As I had morning sickness, I got seasick very badly. As I did not eat, my legs were unsteady when we landed in Hawaii.

Q: Did you arrive in San Francisco?

A: Yes, we did. I stayed in San Francisco 3 or 4 months after the baby was born.

Q: Were you with your husband?

A: Yes.

Q: What did your husband do then?

A: I think he worked somewhere.

Q: What did you do after the baby was born?

A: We came to Cressy. My husband came here to build a house, and when it was ready I came here.

Q: Was your father-in-law here?

A: He was working at the Nichi-Bei News. When I saw him half a year after he went bankrupt, I noticed him aged a lot.

Side 2

Q: What did you do about the milk?

A: They didn't have milk nor icecream at stores, and if they had them they were old as they couldn't sell them. Our house was on a high ground, and when we go down the slope we come to the railroad track. As we go further we come to Mr. Ando's. Across from Mr. Ando's was a man who had a cow and sold us some milk. Everyday I walked over a mile through the field to buy milk.

Q: What other difficulties did you have?

What time did you get up in the morning?

A: We didn't have a regular time to get up in the morning. If we were busy we got up early, depending on our children. I could not go straight to the field as I had to take care of the housework.

Q: Did you cook rice and do the housework?

A: In those days we did not have rice cookers like today. We had to cook rice outside buring branches of grape as fuel. It was like that in olden days. Immigrants' life was very miserable.

Q: Was it very windy here?

A: Yes, indeed. Now we have trees so we don't notice it much, but in the early days of Livingston when Mr. Naka came here this was a wide open space. They put up tents and planted seedling, but when the wind blew the buds were buried in the sand and were suffocated, so they had to plant them all over again. The tent was supported by a pole, and if the pole fell, the whole tent was covered with sand and children cried. It was like a desert. In Colorado, also, I saw the sand storm.

Q: Did some poeple live in tents?

A: Everybody lived in tents as they could not build houses. By and by they built houses. Some people bought old houses, and everybody went there to take baths even from far away. It was like that in the early days in Livingston.

Q: Isn't this a hot place?

A: Yes. When I first came here I used to hear the howling of coyote at night time. I worked hard forgetting everything, but immigrants' life was hard. Fortunately I was healthy so I could work. When we lost the land and we had children it was very hard as I didn't know how to work. But I started working and I worked very hard. Luckily we took over about 40 acres of land people abandoned, so we could get enough money to make a living. We saved little by little, and in about two years we saved $500. With that money

as downpayment we bought 20-acres almond ranch. As we knew we needed money when we own ranch, so we saved money for tax and other necessities. This orchard had been abandoned as it did not yield enough crop in 9 years, but the year we bought it, we had an unprecedented crop, and we sold them with unprecedented price. Consequently the price of land went up in a year. That is how we rose in the world. We bought an old house with the ranch. As we had some money left over we bought more land the following year. In those days it was said that if we had 20 acres and do all the work and harvest by ourselves we can live on it, and if we had 40 acres we would have some money to spare. When I asked a Japanese old man how many acres should I have in order to bring up children, he told me that we need 80 acres. Therefore I made 100 acres my goal. If I bought 20 acres I worked that much with my body. When I bought 40 acres I worked that much more with my body. Fortunately I was healthy, but my husband lost his health. After he came home from the war he did not work as he was weak. When Rev. Fujimori visited us he used to say to my husband, "You are always staying home by the stove while your wife is working in the field." The pastor used to laugh as my husband said, "It doesn't pay me to work." If one is weak, the ones who is healthy has to work. I think my body was hardened as I never got sick. Even when I had runny nose and felt dizzy I had to work, so I went out to work, When I worked in the field sweating, I got rid of my cold and I was well by the time I got home.

Q: What did you do with your children?

A: The older children took care of the littles ones. Sometime I came running home and changed diapers and nursed the babies. I managed somehow. At one time I put the baby under a tree while I was working, but all the trees looked alike, so I looked for the baby when it got dark. The immigrants' life was miserable. Nobody around here had such hardship. Maybe my case was special.

After we bought 40 acres what do you think I did by taking a baby and the milk and the food to the ditch? There were reed growing by the ditch. We could plant about 8,000 grape in 40 acres, so I cut about 10,000 reed in 2 to 3 days, and we used them as markers. I don't think anybody did such thing. You can ask around. After I cut around 200 reed I would leave them there and somebody would pick them up. I put the reed on a long wire and we used them as markers in planting grape. When we had too many to plant we hired Mexicans, but we usually planted them ourselves.

At harvest time we picked about 200 boxes or 8 tons of crop and emptied them in the barn. Nowadays we can have them peeled at the union, but in those days there was no such place, so we peeled them at home. We ~~and~~ had about 60 acres of peach. We packed some of them and took them to the union, and cut the rest of them. We put the cut peach on trays and took them to the smoke house and smoked them for 4 hours. Then we take them out and dried them in the sun. I cannot imagine how much I worked.

My husband thought about a fast way in separating the almond's meat from the skin. We put the almond in water and hit them. Then the skin falls and the meat floats. We scoop up the meat and put it in a container. Some of them still have the skin, so we put them on a tray and dry them. Some of them are hard, so my husband thought about putting them in a box and turning the box with truck belts. We separate the meat from the skin, and put the meat through a strainer and then put it in a box. We did in different ways from other people. I think there is no woman who worked as hard as I did. That is why I cannot sit still even when I became old. I have never taken a nap. I just got in a habit of working.

Four years ago I had bone cancer. One morning when I got up I had to limp although my legs didn't hurt. When I went to see a doctor he told me to warm up my leg as I had arthritis. I warmed my leg for two weeks but it didn't get well, so the doctor examined it thoroughly and found out that the bone in the calf of my leg was broken and there was a white lump there. The doctor did a biopsy and decided to burn it with medicine, Once a month I went to the hospital for examination. The doctor told me it was cured so I thought it was cured.

For about half a year my husband suffered from heart ailment. It would have been better if they kept him in the hospital in case of heart attack, but they sent him home so that he could enjoy life at home. I had to take care of him day and night until I was tire.

Q: When did he pass away?

A: Three or four years ago. My illness is more than four years old now. I had this while my husband was still alive. They told me that I had recovered, so my husband was relieved when he died. About a week after he died my other leg didn't feel right so I went to see a doctor. The following day I had the physical examination, and found out that my liver was swollen. I didn't know it because it didn't hurt. This time it felt about the size of a grapefruit, so I thought I would not get well. For about three weeks the doctor did not take care of me waiting for me to die. As we lived here for 50 years Isseis made a mess, so I straightened them up for 3 weeks. Although the lump was growing bigger it didn't hurt, so I could work. I wanted the doctor to watch me until I die.

I had been taking several magazines. When I took out an old Readers' Digest, I found out that there was a laboratory in Stanford for my illness, so I asked to have a doctor take a look at me. When I went to Stanford many interns took a look at me, and after discussions they decided to try a medicine on me as they thought an operation would not help. This medicine was invented in Germany about 8 months ago, and the doctors wanted to try it on me. It worked well. I was hospitalized, and the doctors gave me the medicine every two hours. When the treatment was finished my lump started to get smaller. They were surprised and told me that I might live.

Until then I thought only about death. If I was going to die, I could only ask God for help. I prayed to God day and night asking Him to take my hand when I die. When I prayed from the bottom of my heart God showed me many things. God led me to places I had never thought about. I had such experiences once or twice, so I realized that God was watching over me. Until then Bible had stories which had no relationship with me no matter how many times I heard. Since then I could relate everything I read in the Bible to me. People in the village, and women's organizations in Central California prayed for me at noon. I think the prayers were heard because I recovered. I have been taking the medicine for 3 years, and there is no trace of it left. That is why I live one day at a time, and I thank God and my friends for letting me live each day.

Q: When did you first attend a church?

A: In Cressy when people came to our house and held a home meeting and sang hymns. I don't remember what year it was. When I lost a child I was hurt as I did not know where God was, so I decided to get baptized. It was not too long after I came here.

Q: Did you have hardships during the Depression?

A: We had more hardships before the Depression. When my father-in-law and my child were hospitalized we had to pay the bill in advance when we did not have the money. My husband had to go around asking poeple to buy the land we had just purchased. At harvest time from 10 to 20 Mexicans came to work, so I had to tell them what to do. We were in poverty for a long time. It was worse than the Depression. Even Japanese doctors in Stockton would not take care of patients unless we paid in advance. It was very miserable. I wanted to sell the land so we could save our father and our child. There was such a time. We lost our land, our child was sick and we had much work to do. We could not have lived unless we were serious. I encouraged myself not to give in because of our child. I think there is nobody who had as much hardships as I did. I think most everybody could make a living somehow, but they did not have as much hardships as I did.

Q: When was it that your father-in-law and your child were ill?

A: I cannot recall what year it was.

Q: About how many years after you came here?

A: It was within 10 years after we came here. We had a hard time. Looking back, it was not hard to work as we had hopes. Our children were growing up,and if we worked hard we could get our land back, so we had hopes. As we had hopes it was not hard to live. Of course we cried sometimes, but looking back, I think that was the life of immigrants.

Q: Did you ever want to go back to Japan?

A: I could not take the children with me, and did not have the money to go back to Japan, so I had to live courageously . I don't think there is anybody who talk like this, but it is the truth. I think Sanseis who were brought up without any trouble cannot imagine how it was in olden days. I don't think there is anybody in this village who had as much hardships as I did.

Q: Do you think the hardship helped you?

A: People say too much hardships is not good, but I had hopes and good health. I could have become angry when a man does not work and his wife has to work, but I felt that the one who could work had to work.

Q: Was your husband that weak?

A: He was not weak at first, but he became weak after he went to the camp. There was intense investigation before we went to the camp. At that time the president of our land company was a newborn baby, and I who could not speak English was the secretary, so when we were investigated there was no excuse. I think my husband hurt his health then. My son had not come of age then, and those who had reached the age were drafted when they went into the camps. If our son had come of age then, we could have put the land in his name. I think my husband worried himself ~~to~~ sick. When we entered the camp he walked unsteadily. After we came home, he was so weak that he did not do any small work.

Q: Was there much pressure?

A: Yes. Some poeple had their check books examined, so I think my husband was worried that our land might be taken away. Before we went to camp F.B.I. came to our village and took some people away, At that time my husband was an officer of the Colony Kai or some kind of organization. Mr. Konno was very excited and told us that we could not have this or that, even an electric massager, so we threw away Japanese records, books and everything else. I had been keeping a diary ever since I came here as a record of what we plant and when we plant them because both my husband and I were not professional farmers. I regretted when I had to burn my diary. At that time we burned everything that came from Japan. When I thought I was going to die of cancer I burned my diary as my husband was not alive then, and there was nobody who could read Japanese. Now I do no have memories of what happened in what year.

Q: What were you doing when Pearl Harbor was attacked?

A: I was listening to the radio at home.

Q: What did you think then?

A: There was a rumor of war between Japan and America, so I thought it finally happened. I didn't know what would become of us. I didn't want to fight against our relations. When a draft notice came to our son, my husband did not want him to go, so he asked

for postponement on account of farming. After we went to Amache, he attended a college in Wyoming, but he felt bad as other boys went to war, and felt worry for their mothers, so he said he wanted to join service. There was an announcement that if we had 20 acres we didn't have to go to war, so we leased 300 acres. We needed money to do so, so we sold our land here. Our other two children attended a college in Denver. I don't think there is any other family who sold their land to send their children to schools.

Q: When Pearl Harbor was attacked did you think Japanese would pay for it?

A: Japan had dome bad things in China, so when the war broke out we had to be ready to pay for it.

Q: Did you think Isseis and Nisseis would be persecuted?

A: I thought something like that would happen as it was wartime. After the war we waited a year before we came home. People who were living here were making money, and if we had come home and told them to leave right away they might have started a riot, so we went to our son's ranch. Some people stayed at church and waited a year before they went home. Mr. Morimoto who was discharged from the Army came home a year earlier..He had land but he did not have a house, so he lived upstairs of a house. He was shot at while he was in the house by a passerby, and a bullet

missed his head by a foot. Mr. Hashimoto, Miyake and Ando came home early, and they were shot at but they were lucky. We could have come home earlier as our former worker was farming in our ranch, but we gave him a chance and waited a year before we came home.

Q: Where was your son farming at?

A: In Colorado.

Q: Did you go to Merced assembly center after the war broke out?

A: Yes. Most people took only what they could carry in their arms, but as we lived close by we could take everything we wanted to take, and had Mexicans carry them on a cart. A German lady who owned the one and only grocery store visited us once a week, so we ordered things we wanted and people around here were well off. At mess hall everything was served on one plate and it was not appetizing, so we cooked in our room. It was hot season and we wanted to eat something cool, so we were fortunate.

Q: Around what month did you enter Merced assembly center?

A: I think it was May or June.

Q: When did you leave there?

A: I think it was around September. We stayed there for about 3 months

Q: Did you go to Amache from there?

A: Yes, we did.

Q: How were the barracks in Merced assembly center?

A: They were still building it when we entered the center. In Ameche they kept on adding buildings as more people came in.

Q: Were the barracks very simple buildings?

A: Yes. They were just made of boards, and the ceiling was open. Twice we were told that we could send for things we wanted. We did not know how long we were going to stay there, so we sent for things stored at Mr. Castle's, and they even sent us our piano. The children could not practise piano in our house as the neighbor was too close, so they went to the music hall to practise piano.

Q: Who was taking care of your land here?

A: I left it in care of a worker. He still comes here. He worked here with his mother and sister since he was around 16 years old.

Q: Is he a Mexican?

A: Yes, he is a Mexican who was brought up here. His father had gone to Mexico, so he took care of his family since he graduated from grade school.

Q: Did that Mexican take good care of your ranch?

A: This Mexican made money, so he went to Los Angeles and bought a new car, and treated people at the bar. Other Mexicans bought land, but he just built a house. He built it after we came home, but it was taken away. If I was home I would have given a house and let him use the utility free, but as I was not here he spent all his money. He still works here.

Q: Did he take good care of your ranch?

A: He did it just the way we did, so I thanked him for keeping it in good shape for us. He told me that he did his best. He knows this ranch more than we do as he has been working here for over 20 years.

Q: What did you do with your household goods?

A: We were told to store them in government warehouses, but we did not have valuable things to store there. The only precious thing we had were some paintings. As we did not know if we could come back or not, we let some teachers and other people who took care of us in Cressey and Livingston to pick the ones they wanted. They picked the colorful ones first, and thanked us. This is a painting of a waterfall. There is a house under it, and a forest behind it. The water is flowing between the rocks.

Q: Did you paint the picture?

A: No kidding. I cannot draw. This is an old painting.

Q: Did you work in the camp?

A: I worked in the kitchen and recieved $16. The leader of the camp thought it was not good if people have nothing to do, so he let people have entertainments. There was singing and dancing and all sorts of things going on every day. They let people play any kind of musical instruments they could play, so I played koto. I took my koto to Amache and played it there, too.

When we went to Amache children attended a school in the camp and older children became teachers. Some women became teachers of sewing, knitting, calligraphy, utai (chanting of noh drama text), samisen and taught them at schools. I had a chance to learn knitting, sewing, samisen and utai. I was so busy that I used to run to the toilet far away. Then my neighbor asked, "Where is the fire ?" I was too busy even to sleep. When I was young I thought I never wanted to learn utai, but as I grew up listening to it, I joined the utai group as I became older, and I am still continuing it. There is no teacher of utai around here, so I used to go to Los Angeles for lessons. It takes 6 hours to go there by bus, and I do not have the energy to do that, so lately I joined a group in San Francisco and go there often.

Q: Waht kind of thing do you remember about the camp?

A: As I belonged to all kinds of groups I spent the time being occupied.

Q: Did you have difficulties in laundering and other things?

A: We had a place with hot and cold running water where we could wash clothes anytime, and we could take baths anytime we wanted. In the mess halls we just ate and didn't have to clean up. I never had it so good.

Q: Were things going better around here when the war broke out?

A: We were not too well off then, but after we came back people made a lot of money. That is why we could enlarge our house and buy farm implements. People in Livingston and Cressy had not paid off their mortgages on land in 20 years1 but most everybody had their money saved in unions while they were gone1 and that paid off their mortgages and had some money left over.

Q: Some families were so poor that they could hardly make a living, so they were glad that they had enough to eat in the camp. It wasn't like that with people around here, wasn't it?

A: There wasn't anybody like that here. Were they farmers?

T: Yes, farmers around Florin.

S: I heard that soil in Florin is bad. Cressey's soil is just as bad, so we had a hard time as we did not make much profit from our work.

Q: Life in camp was not better than the life at home, wasn't it?

A: Of course not. I don't know how much money we could have saved if we were home.

Q: What kind of difficulties did you have in camp?

A: We were fed and were given work, so I did not have any difficulties. I was only worried about the children. As two countries were at war, we were not happy, but we managed to live one day at a time.

Q: Were there people in camp who spread rumors that Japan was winning the war?

A: Yes, there were. Some people listened to shortwave radios, and told us that Japan was winning the war. I just kept quiet but didn't believe him because I didn't think the American government report was false and I believed it. What they heard on the radio was just hearsay and it was not reliable. Some people were angry at us for not believing that Japan was winning the war. My husband and I kept quiet. When we read American newspapers and government report we didn't think Japan was winning the war, but we kept quiet and did not argue with them. People who believed the radio broadcast said, "We won the war again today."

Q: Did you have more time in the camp than before?

A: For the first time since I came to America I had time of my own. I did not have to clean up after meals, and I could take a bath without preparing it. I was thankful in that respect. Also I could learn anything I wanted to lean. I learned samisen which I learned a little when I was a child. Someone asked me if I wanted to learn samisen since there was a teacher in our block. When I said I wanted to learn it, she brought me a samisen I could borrow, so I went to learn it.

Q: What did your husband do?

A: He worked in the farm, but as our son started doing well, he worked as a janitor of a school, He was in friendly terms with school teachers. That was for a short time, and he went back to our son's farm. People leased the farm which belonged to the camp, and it was near by, so farming was his main job.

Q: Was your son managing the farm?

A: Yes, he was. We leased a farm which belonged to the camp and lived there. There was a Japanese bath tub, and the water in the tub used to become ice during the night. When we drew water in the morning we kept it by the fire.

After the war when we became free I want to our son's farm and helped him. Our daughter went to Chicago and worked for the Y.M.C.A. Before we want home we visited our daughter

in Chicago with our youngest child and stayed there for about a month. Our son put his farm implements such as his tractor on a truck and came back to Cressey with his dog. I had put a catfish in a container before we left. When we came back to Cressey, the fish was frozen. As we did not have heat in the house it stayed frozen. When we started a fire and the ice melted the catfish started to move. It was alive in the ice. I was surprised. I wonder we can do that with people.

Q: What other recollections do you have about the camp?

A: We learned this and that, and there were reviews all the time, so we spent the time watching them.

Q: Were there troubles as many people were crowded in one place?

A: There might have been small troubles, but ~~they~~ didn't bother ~~with~~ us ~~them~~. There are many peculiar people in this village and anywhere else, but I do not take sides with any of them. As I have been sickly, I have been sending birthday offering cards to church members for the past ten years. The other day they elected me as a secretary of the church.

Q: What kind of a place was Amache?

A: There was a small town with forests behind it going up the hill. The barracks were built on the slope. As many people gathered there some Japanese had fish stores and other stores.

Q: Was it originally a desert?

A: It was a hill with trees. Our son was farming there. When a black cloud appeared in the sky he knew that strong wind was going to blow, so he tried to run home as fast as he could through 80 acres. Before long strong wind started blowing, scattering sand. As he was pushed by the wind he could not run fast, and took a long time to reach home. Soon it started hailing even in summer. The hale knocked down the leaves of corn, and after the hale only the stalks were standing. The hale also made holes in the leaves of sugar canes. It was terrible.

Q: How big was the hale?

A: It was as big as . It was thin and had shrp point.

Q: Wasn't it round?

A: No, ones around here are round, but ones over there looked like and they were sharp. I saw them around June, but I think it hales anytime. How can you farm in a place like that.

Q: Were there many snakes there?

A: I don't know if there are many of them or not, but there were rattlers. There were also big centipedes.

Q: What would you do if you were bitten by them?

A: I think it would be dangerous if you get bitten by it in the dark. Rattlers appeared here and there. Some men who were not afraid of them would cut the head off. There were some smake catchers who used to catch snakes not only in camp but also outside. Some people bought snakes from them. People who were in the hospital made powder out of dried snakes and drank them secretly. Doctors wondered why some patients had fever, and found out that they ran fever after taking the powder from rattlers. I heard that snakes sold good. Many people used to gather around after somebody killed a snake. Some people may have been bitten by snakes, but I did not hear any such case.

Q: How old were your youngest child when you entered the camp?

A: She was in grammar school.

Q: Is your oldest the son who is here?

A: Yes. He was in a college. The second son had gradiated from highschool. The third one graduated from highschool in Amache.

Q: Who is your oldest daughter?

A: The one in Chicago is the oldest daughter.

Q: Who is next?

A: Min's wife, June.

Q: Is Pat the youngest?

A: Yes, she is. She was very angry when she was put in the camp.

Q: Why was she angry?

A: She said she is an American citizen.

Q: Were you worried about children's education?

A: Yes, I was because they didn't have anything to do. I wanted them to do something. I sent for the piano as I thought they would be comforted by playing piano, but they could not practice much as our neighbors were too close.

T: Pat is a very good singer.

S: She did not study singing. She studied art, but when she graduated she told me that she could not make a living as an artiest. I scolded her and said, "That is why I told you to go to commercial." I told her to go to school one more year to be a school teacher so that she could make a living. When she graduated, she told me that she was not suited for a school teacher. She was troubled as she did not know which way to go, so she went to see a pastor and other people, but I think she could not talk to me. She went into acting as she needed money to go to Paris to study art. They liked her voice. She liked singing but she had never studied singing. I did not know anything about that kind of world so I left her alone. Fortunately, everything went

well for her. She married after the "Flower Drum Song", and did not work for two or three years. When they made the movie she was pregnant so she could not appear. Since then she quit singing. I heard that there was an article about her in the paper wanting her to appear again. My friend in New York, Mrs. Hoshino came and told me that she see Pat on television lately.

T: She was on television every week 2 or 3 years ago.

S: I didn't know that.

T: I heard that children were isolated from their parents as they did not eat meals at home but in the mess halls.

S: That is why there were boys gang in Amache and did mischieves. Those we called bad boys are doing well in the world, maybe because they have nerves. By the way, among those who are farming around here, college graduates are barely making, but those who started farming after graduating from highschools are good farmers. Of course they do not go bowling or any other entertainment, but they are doing well.

Q: Was there a riot in the camp?

A: There was no fights in our camp.

Q: Did your sons go into service?

A: No, they didn't.

Q: Weren't there people who resented Niseis going into service?

A: People around here were Christians, so they let them leave with good grace. I think the only ones opposed were Buddhists.

Q: Did you leave the camp before the war ended?

A: As I told you before, we stayed here a year longer to give people a chance to make more money.

Q: Did you stay in the camp?

A: After we could leave the camp, people came to the church in Livingston and lived there.

Q: When did you leave the camp?

A: A year after the war ended, and gave a chance to people who were living here.

Q: How did you feel when the war ended and found out that Japan lost?

A: It was harder than America losing the war, as we are Japanese. My Nisei daughter-in-law told me that she did not want me to teach Japanese to my grandchildren until they entered college. Do you understand what she meant? She was afraid I might teach them Japanese ideals if I taught them Japanese. I speak standard Japanese, so I wanted my grandchildren to learn at least the conversational Japanese. That is why my grandchildren do not know any Japanese. She did not try to make them learn Japanese because she was afraid I teach them Japanese ideals. She must have wanted them to grow up to be wise Americans. It is inconvenient because they cannot answer the phone calls for me.

Q: How long did you stay at the church after you came back?

A: About a year. We went to our son's ranch, so we did not go to the church.

Q: Where was your son?

A: He was farming in Colorado, so we went there and helped him for a year. When we were in camp not many Japanese had homes. Almost everybody in this village had homes, but other people did not have homes to go back to. Nowadays people from San Francisco own homes, but in those days almost everybody from San Francisco did not own homes. Niseis buy homes when they get married nowadays. They buy fine homes. I think they can afford them if both husbands and wives work.

We bought this house as a servant's house for $400 or $500 . That house was a small house which Mr. Abiko built. We should have tore it down and built a new house, , but we kept on adding rooms and made that house. When we built a parlour using thick board, the labor cost was higher, so my husband who had never built anything but a barn decided to build it by himself. He started from the foundation and built it all by himself.

Q: When was that?

A: It was after we came back from the camp. He did not work in the field, but he did it little by little. That house is quite big.

It has 5 large rooms. As my daughter-in-law came from Oakland I thought she likes to live in town, so I let her live in Livingston. But when she came to our house she wanted to love here as our house was spaciour, light and cool. I said, "Our children have all left home and just my husband and I are living here, so we would be happy to have you move in here with us." They moved in with their children, and I washed diapers of 5 children. Niseis brides cannot manage well when there is much work, so I helped her.

Q: Did your husband come back here alone after staying in Colorado for a year?

A: My husband came back before me and repaired tha house after the people moved out so that we could live here.

Q: Did you know about America when you were in Japan?

A: I just read in books, so I could not imagine how it was.

Q: Did your husband tell you what kind of a place America was when you got married and came to San Francisco?

A: He told me that they do not let ladies work.

Q: How did you feel when you came to San Francisco?

A: I thought it was a nice city, which is a different from Japanese cities. People looked more civilized.

Q: Weren't you surprised when you came to Cressey?

A: Yes, I was. In San Francisco I had friends. Rakuko Yamada who taught koto invited me. We were of different koto schools, so we did not play together, but I helped her when she had visitors. There were some people from my prefecture, so we spent the time going to town together or listening to stories of their personal experience.

Q: As you were brought up in town you did not know amything about farming, didn't you?

A; I did not see radish or cabbage unless I went in the suburb or in vegetable stores.

T: You came here from such a place and started farming for the first time.

S: That was my destiny, so I could not do anything but to make the best of it.

Q: Were you sorry you came to America?

A: I had children, so I could do nothing but to make the best of my life.

Q: Did you associate with the white people?

A: No. There were just Japanese in the colony, so I had hardly any association with the white people in 50 years.

Q: Did you have any unplesant experience with the white people?

A: I cannot say there wasn't. For instance, when we wanted to buy land, the white poeple signed petition that they did not want Japanese there.

Q: Did it happen here?

A: Yes, it did, when we wanted to buy land in Delhi. We could feel that the white people looked down on Japanese. When we came here there was strong anti-Japanese sentiment.

Side 4

S: Sometimes I see a father working as a dayworker at his son's. I cannot understand that. I have never received any pay while I worked here for over 50 years. The first time I received pay was in camp when I was paid $16 a month.

Q: Is it the white people that a father gets paid from his son?

A: Yes, that happens here often.

Q: We cannot imagine such thing among Japanese, can't we?

A: I never heard of such case among Japanese. We help each other as much as we can as long as we can move around. They have different morals. Take take profit for themselves while Japanese try to give it to the other side.

T: It is other way around, isn't it.

S: The morals are different as the countries are different.

Q: Did you have any problem when your son married?

A: The wife of our son who is living here was introduced to him by his friend. When he visited her home, she, her brother and everybody in the family liked him and asked him to marry her. That is how he married her.

Q: Did you leave them alone?

A: I heard about her, so I told him to go and see her. He did not go back there again, so I knew everything went well. Some people brought their daughter with her for about 3 years with the excuse of getting peaches, but if my son did not like her there was nothing they could do. He did not say much but I think he had his likes and dislikes. I just listened to him, and did not tell him what to do. His marriage is going smoothly.

Q: Did you say things like most Japanese do?

A: No, I didn't. The bride has more power, so I just obey her. Don't you think Niseis look down on Issei women because we do not dress well? Nowadays we dress well as we have money, but in olden days we were dirty and did not dress well, so I think they looked down on Issei women.

Q: Is that why many Isseis stayed behind?

A: I think so. I don't know about other people, but I did. I did whatever my daughter-in-law told me to do. That is why things went smoothly in our family. We did not quarrel in our family, not even the children. In some families people quarrelled and went to the pastors or to the neighbors' crying, or wife ran away. Some brides got the neuralgia, but we did not have such troubles in our family.

Q: How was it when your daughters got married?

A: She was in Chicago and was in J.C,L.A. She worked with Mari Sabusawa who was the president of J.C.L.A. There was a talk about her marrying Mari's brother, and she brought him home.

Q: Which daughter was it? Was it June?

A: That was our oldest daughter. I felt sorry for June. Min was in the second year of college when the war broke out. His mother didn't let him go out, so he stayed in camp for about 2 years. June was the same age, but she graduated from college, worked at a church in Los Angeles for a year and took a post graduate course in Mills college. for a year. At that time she met Min. Min didn't let her go, and they were married. After they were married Min started college from the third year, and 3 children were born one after another. before he graduated. I felt sorry for June. She had to work hard with e children, and he was a student.

Q: Was he in college then, or was he in theological seminary?

A: He was in college then. After that he went to the theological seminary. I can say that June sent him to school.

Q: What has become of Pat?

A: She is living alone now.

Q: Did she get married?

A: She married, but her husband died of heart attack. He was the same age as our son Frank. As soon as the war broke out he was drafted, and was in the Air Force. He drove the plane which took Gen. Mac Arthur to Japan. He was number one or two in photography and he started a movie business. He hired many people and had many equipments. He would have been all right if he had stayed in the business, but he became a co-signer of his wartime buddy's business. When his buddy became bankrupt, he lost money. Pat was left with a child and did not know what to do.

Q: When was it that Pat was in the "Flower Drum Song"?

A: That was before she got married. She married after that.

Q: Do you know Jack Sue who was also in the "Flower Drum Song"?

A: He was Suzuki Sue. Do you know him?

T: I know his younger brother, Mike Sue.

Q: Do you hear stories about people who came here as picture brides? Weren't there tragedies?

A: There were some at the time of their marriage, but we don't hear about them now. As picture marriage does not sound good people do not want to talk about it, and we do not ask them about it. I am surprised how those young brides came to strangers, but I am sure the parents agreed to this kind of marriage. I think that was their fate.

Q; How long did it take you to get used to American way of living?

A: Children ate different kinds of food, so I started to learn to eat them. We used to eat mush when we came here. As I grew up in a city I never saw oats. I never ate butter before, but it became my favorite food.

Q: Didn't you like butter?

A: Not that I didn't like it, but I had never eaten it before. Everybody use butter now, but there was not such thing when I was in Japan.

Q: Did you eat cheese?

A: I still don't like it very much, but I don't dislike it. I eat it because of the smell.

Q: What was the biggest problem concerning food when you came here?

A: There were Japanese restaurants which served tasty food. I eat any kind of food. As I am healthy I do not get stomach-aches. I don't have any problems no matter what country I go, but when they served meat cooked in strange style I have problems. In Arabia they served black meat three times a day. I don't know how it was cooked, so I did not eat it. When I go to foreign countries I do not drink a drop of water. I drink just the mineral water. I tastes bad.

Q: Japanese could not buy land when you bought the land here, couldn't they?

A: No, we couldn't. When we bought 20 acres, it was hard to keep it up as we had to pay the mortgage. There was hardly anybody who could afford more.

Q: Couldn't you buy land because you weren't American citizens?

A: We weren't citizens, but we could buy land as Crystal Vineyard Company. As I told you before, we made a newborn baby as the president, and I was the secretary of the company. That is why we were investigated when we went to camp, and my husband was very worried. Most Japanese bought land as companies. I don't know much about this kind of thing as my husband took care of all the business.

Q: Did you approve or disapprove of Niseis going to war for America?

A: I did not approve or disapprove it, but it was painful either way. I just prayed that the war would end as soon as possible. Our neighbors the Ohki and the Kinoshitas lost their sons in the war. I expressed my condolence with tears saying that I was sorry my son did not go to war. I felt sorry for them, but I could not do anything about it. We could not say the Niseis should go to war or not, but my husband did not want our only son to go to war, so he made all kinds of arrangements so that he did not have to go to war. Now I think it may have been better if he had gone to war because of the benefits.

Q: As an Issei, what kind of thing do you want to teach the Sanseis and Yonseis?

A: I want them to know the values of Japanese culture. They might like fair-skinned, tall Japanese who looks like the white people, but not all the Japanese are like that. Japanese ojisan and obasan do not look good nor dressed well, so the Sanseis do not seem to like them. However, Japanese culture is 2,000 years old while America is only 200 years old, so I want them to know the Japanese culture. I went to Mexico a while ago and was shown their culture, but it does not exist now. Wherever I went, Italy, Greece or Egypt there was culture, but it is not continued. In Japan the culture is still eontinuing, so there is plenty to see.

Q: As an Issei you experienced all kinds of hardships. What do you think is the most important thing in life for young people?

A: I did not have any ambition to become somebody special, but I wish I lived my life more meaningfully. There are all kinds of people in this world, and things do not go well as we want, so I want them to have faith in God. If we have faith we can go through any kind of hardships, and when we are in trouble we can consult with God.

That girl who came here a while ago recived some money and had a write up in a paper when she graduated from highschool. Then somebody wrote a story about her in the paper out of jealousy. She took the matter to heart and started searching for God. Since she started going to college she has been attending church even when she is busy. Yesterday morning she got up early and went into the parlor. I went to see what she was doing, and found out that she was reading the Bible. I think that kind of girl can stand all kinds of hardships. I wish everybody had that kind of faith.

Q: Do you think it is good for a person to experience hardships?

A: They say that if we do not experience hardships we cannot see everything and we do not have sympathy. People who have money around here are very arrogant and selfish. When I see them I think if ~~one~~ people experience hardships when they are young, they will have more consideration for others and do their best, so I think it is better.

Q: What kind of a man was Mr. Suzuki?

A: He was very gentle to others. After he passed away the white people in the village said that there was mobody as gentle as he was. But he was very strict to me. He was a male chauvinist and never showed any kindness or affection to me. Sometimes I was angry and told him to act like a man. I don't think there is any other family in which a man does not work, but if he does not want to work, the ones who wants to work should work. When I had bad legs 4 or 5 years ago I was not allowed to work for a year. After I could work I used to go out and prune trees. My daughter-in-law would come and take the shears away from me. Then I would get another pair of shears and started pruning. I used to say, "I have been pruning for 50 years. There is nothing else I can do, so I will do it until I die." I am thankful I can work. When I was sick I thought it was good to be able to work.

Q: People say that Issei women had hardships. Did women in general had hardships?

A: I think around here men had hardships and women just helped them. It was not like in Japan. In Japan girls did not have to work in town until they get married. When I came to America I had to pay for it. I think I have paid for it. I am thankful I am healthy and can work.

Q: Looking back, when was the hardest time for you?

A: The time we started farming here was the hardest. When I was with my parents I never experienced hardships or sadness. I only had good times, maybe because I was under the protection of my parents. After I came here there was just hardships as we started farming. I could work after I resigned myself to my fate and decided to make the best of it.

Q: Were you always scolded by your husband?

A: I have never been scolded by my husband.

Q: What did you mean when you said, "He was strict"?

A: He was in bad mood if I didn't do what I should do, so I did. I never heard him say sweet words to me. He used to say, "I am a man." So I told him, "If you are a man, act like one", and he would keep quiet. Everybody said that he was a gentle man, so I guess he was a gentle man.

Q: Couldn't he work much after the war?

A: He worked before the war, but after the war he did not work. Our son Frankie had about a year left in the college. but he quit the college to help his father with farming as he was weak. I regret I didn't let him do what he wanted to do instead of farming. He did not marry until his two sister were married. Now I have a home, children, grandchildren, food and clothes so I am satisfied. I should not complain.

Q: Do you think about the past when you are knitting or in bed?

A: I used to think so much that I could not sleep.

Q: What kind of thing did you think about?

A: I wonder what will become of me, how it was when I came here or if I made mistakes. When my daughter is here I am happy, but when I am alone I think about those things or recollect the time I lived with my sister. Now I don't have any hardships nor debts, so I am ready to go anytime I am called. I don't have any regret. I have been face to face with death twice already. I have asked my husband to take my hand and lead me to heaven. In death watch people invite friends and make noise, but in our family just the members of the family gathered, so I had a chance to talk to my husband. I said to him," When the time comes I will lay by your side so wait for me. The people in the village are very kind to me, and all of our children came from far away." I could not have said such thing if we had many guests here, so it was a good farewell party. It has been four years since he passed away, and 5 years since I was ill.

Q: All kinds of things happened in the lives of Isseis, didn't they?

A: All kinds of things happened since I came here. At that time it did not feel hard as I had hopes.

S: I wonder how the Isseis in the city spend their time.

T: They get together and learn painting, writing or ceramics. In Sacramento some people stay home, but people who can move around go to such places and have good times.

S: We don't have such places here, so we don't go anywhere. The other day we took a carload of senior citizens to see a play. They were so happy that we want to take them out again.

T: In Sacramento we take Isseis on bus trips. We are going to take them to see ancient Chinese art in a museum in San Francisco.

S: I think it is good that you take them to Angel Island and other places. There is no such thing here. There are less than 10 senior citizens here, and 15 including those in Cortex. They are not used to going out, so they do not want to go out.

T: Mostly Sanseis are doing this kind of work.

S: There is no Sanseis here. They quit farming and go outside. Nobody succeed farming. The reason is, when we buy land we have to clear the land in the first year, and in the second year we have to level the land. If we plant almonds in the third year it takes 6 to 7 years before we can harvest almonds. For 10 years we just put in money, work and pay tax without any income. If we work outside and receive salary for 10 years we can make a fortune, so Sanseis will not farm. Some people have started selling land, but the white people would not buy it unless the price is low. There are 5 daughters in our family so they go out and nobody would farm. My son takes

care of 100 acres with one helper. Sometimes we have more helpers, but usually just two men work hard from early in the morning and he barely makes a living. every year. Three girls are in college so it costs. Lately my daughter-in-law started working to help out. She did not work for 20 years but now that the youngest one is in highschool she started working.

My younger brother is a pastor of the Chuo (Central) Church in Toyohashi City in Japan. Americans built a building on the bombed out land and he started a church there.

Q: Were you a Christian when you were in Japan?

A: I became a Christian after I came here as there was no Buddhist church here. Even after I became a Christian, the Bible was just stories no matter how many times I heard the sermons, and they did not relate to me. I did not understand it until I experienced hardships.

Q: Have you heard about Christianity while you were in Japan?

A: There were many churches and pastors. I went to church because they gave me cards, and I sang hymns at Christmas time, but I didn't know anything about faith.